



*United States Attorney
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PRESS RELEASE

MARY JO WHITE, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the Government has reached an interim agreement with the NEW YORK YANKEES and the CITY OF NEW YORK, along with the private plaintiffs in the ongoing lawsuit, that requires the NEW YORK YANKEES to substantially modify certain ticketing and pricing policies for the remainder of the 1999 baseball season.

The interim agreement was reached as part of the ongoing private lawsuit the Government joined in January 1999. In the suit, the Government alleges that the NEW YORK YANKEES, the lessee of Yankee Stadium, and the CITY OF NEW YORK, the owner of Yankee Stadium, have discriminated and continue to discriminate on the basis of disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA") by failing to make Yankee Stadium accessible to people with disabilities. The defendants deny the allegations.

Yankee Stadium currently has six price levels for general public seating (\$8, \$14, \$23, \$26, \$29 and \$50) and only two price levels for wheelchair seating (\$26 and \$50). The only wheelchair seats in Yankee Stadium with unobstructed views are currently sold at the highest price level -- \$50. The agreement announced today addresses this pricing structure by requiring that the price of these wheelchair and companion seating locations be reduced by over 40% (from \$50 to \$29), and that the remainder of the wheelchair and companion seating be sold at \$8 and \$14, the lowest price categories in the Stadium.

Further, prior to the agreement announced today, wheelchair users and their companions were required to call the NEW YORK YANKEES' main office in order to purchase tickets, while the rest of the general public had the opportunity to purchase tickets through the Internet, the Yankee clubhouse stores throughout New York City, Ticketmaster, or ticket booths and windows at Yankee Stadium. Pursuant to the agreement, the NEW YORK YANKEES will provide wheelchair users the same methods of purchase previously available only to non-disabled fans.

Ms. WHITE stated: "This interim agreement addresses some of the NEW YORK YANKEES' ticketing and pricing policies for fans who use wheelchairs for the remainder of the 1999 season, while preserving the Government's right to seek more comprehensive relief in the ongoing lawsuit to ensure that people with disabilities are provided an equal opportunity to enjoy Yankee baseball and the other attractions that Yankee Stadium has to offer."

The case is currently pending before United States District Judge SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN, who approved the interim agreement today.

Judge SCHEINDLIN has set the matter down for trial beginning on December 6, 1999.

Assistant United States Attorneys GLENN C. COLTON and ROBERT W. SADOWSKI are in charge of the case.

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